

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1041
By Graves

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ernest B. Pellegrin of
Sumner County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the passing of Mr. Ernest B. Pellegrin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pellegrin was an exemplary public servant and consummate
professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in
numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born March 18, 1928 to John and Martha Elizabeth Pellegrin in Richmond,
Virginia, Mr. Pellegrin attended primary schools in Plainfield, New Jersey before graduating from
Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon and pursuing a degree at Middle Tennessee State
College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pellegrin briefly interrupted his educational endeavors in order to
courageously serve in the United States Air Force during the Korean War from September 1950
to September 1954, during which time he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, upon completing his military service, Mr. Pellegrin earned a LL.B. degree
from Cumberland University School of Law; he later studied at the National Judicial College of
the University of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pellegrin was admitted to the Bar and began practicing law in Gallatin in
1957, and in 1959 he was elected to serve in the Tennessee General Assembly, representing
Sumner County in the House of Representatives during the 81st General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pellegrin was appointed as the first Assistant District Attorney General
for the then 9th Judicial District (is now the 18th Judicial District) in April 1963 and served
astutely in that capacity until 1972; and

WHEREAS, appointed by Governor Winfield Dunn to serve as the first Criminal Court
Judge of the 9th Judicial District in 1972, Judge Pellegrin served on the bench with great

acumen and dedication, earning the respect of both his judicial peers and those appearing before the court alike for the exemplary quality of his decisions, his wisdom, and his unquestioned integrity; and

WHEREAS, Judge Pellegrin resigned from on the bench in 1983 when he was appointed Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction by Governor Lamar Alexander; he served in that important position with the utmost dignity, decorum and acumen during a tumultuous time when the agency fell under federal scrutiny to reduce prison overcrowding; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the Department of Correction in April 1985, Judge Pellegrin continued to serve Governor Alexander, with distinction, this time as the Governor's Lead Counsel, before returning to his private law practice in January 1986; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional and astute attorney, Mr. Pellegrin held membership in numerous worthy organizations, including the American, Tennessee, and Gallatin Bar associations, Tennessee Judicial Conference, Rotary Club, American Legion, Gallatin Quarterback Club, and the Gallatin Lions Club; additionally he had lent his excellent leadership to the Sumner County Board of Education as Past-Chairman, Sumner County Library Board as Past-President, Castle Heights Alumni Association as Past-President, and First United Methodist Church as a member of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, actively involved in his community even after retiring, Mr. Pellegrin served on the Advisory Board of Cumberland Bank and continued to hold membership in the Castle Heights Alumni Association, the Rotary Club, and First United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded resident of Sumner County, Mr. Pellegrin loved his community and the City of Gallatin and was an avid supporter of the Green Wave athletic teams at Gallatin High School; and

WHEREAS, also deeply devoted to his family, Mr. Pellegrin always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pellegrin enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Bernice, was the proud father of Jo Anne Smith and Jean Hale, and the grandfather of five; and

WHEREAS, aptly described by U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander as "a man of real integrity, especially in the sense of public service," Ernest Pellegrin leaves behind an indelible

legacy of justice and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ernest B. Pellegrin, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, dedication to fair application of the law, as a jurist and public servant, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Pellegrin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.